



Winter Exploration Hike Series

at Monroe Lake, January thru April 2015

Our Winter Exploration Hike Series features off-trail hiking through lesser-known areas of Monroe Lake. These are exploratory in nature so there is no “set” path; we’ll have a general route in mind, but plenty of freedom to veer off as things of interest catch our eyes. Hikers should be prepared for the possibility of rugged terrain, lack of formal toilet facilities, and lots of fun!

All of the Winter Exploration Hikes are FREE, but online PREREGISTRATION is required for each hike by the specified date. Registrants are sent an email with driving directions to the meeting location and additional details at least 1 day prior to each hike.

Tuesday, January 13: Crooked Creek Backwater at 1:30p (Location: Crooked Creek SRA)

Register by January 10 at bit.ly/2015winterhikejan13

Depending on water levels, we’ll either hike the old Elkinsville Road and ridgelines above the backwater or check out the Lucas Hollow woods and fields. *1 hour 30 minutes*

Thursday, January 22: Pate Hollow Hills at 1:30p (Location: Paynetown SRA)

Register by January 20 at bit.ly/2015winterhikejan22

From ridge tops to valleys, we’ll check out the back portion of Paynetown and the adjacent Pate Hollow area of the Hoosier National Forest. *1 hour 30 minutes*

Wednesday, February 4: Salt Creek Spillway at 3:00p (Location: Salt Creek SRA)

Register by February 2 at bit.ly/2015winterhikefeb4

From the “cliff” edge overlooking the emergency spillway to the floodplain woods along Salt Creek to the ravines feeding directly into the lake, this area offers plenty of options for us to explore. *1 hour 30 minutes*

Monday, February 16: Northfork Marshes at 1:30p (Location: Northfork Service Area)

Register by February 12 at bit.ly/2015winterhikefeb16

Numerous ponds and small marshes dot this area, where eagles were reintroduced to Indiana over 30 years ago (our expected route will take us past the remnants of their “hacking” tower!). *2 hours*

Southfork Marshes

Each Southfork hike will take you into a different portion of the Southfork Marshes. Located in Brown and Jackson Counties, the Southfork Marshes have no developed trails and few easy access points. Designed as a refuge for migrating waterfowl, public access to this area during the winter months is highly restricted. The areas we explore are likely to be “marshy,” so a good pair of waterproof hiking boots is recommended.

Because of the remote location, expect longer than normal travel times to reach the meeting locations for these hikes. Registration for each hike is limited to 10 people due to parking availability. Hikes are *2 hours*.

Wednesday, March 4: Southfork Marshes #1 at 2:30p

Register by March 2 at bit.ly/2015winterhikemar4

Wednesday, March 18: Southfork Marshes #2 at 2:30p

Register by March 18 at bit.ly/2015winterhikemar18

Wednesday, April 1: Southfork Marshes #3 at 2:30p

Register by March 29 at bit.ly/2015winterhikeapr1

Wednesday, April 15: Southfork Marshes #4 at 2:30p

Register by April 12 at bit.ly/2015winterhikeapr15